

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday February 19th 2015 at 11 Chestnut Close, Culgaith.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chairman
Heather Edwards	Membership Secretary
Carol Dougherty	
Martin Railton	Research
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
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Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a correct record.

1/2/15 Matters arising

None

2/2/15 Talks to Schools.

Trish had spoken to two groups of students at the Appleby Grammar School. Of the two, the younger group seemed the more interested. Trish had included a mention of the new Appleby Town Project in her talks.

3/2/15 Membership

Heather said that there were currently 52 paid up members, including the joint memberships. Carol said that would be usual for this time of year; there were always a number of late renewals. A reminder would be sent, as usual, with the Spring Newsletter.

4/2/15 Treasurer's Report

Mike had sent an up to date copy of the accounts for the period 1st January to 19th February, showing a positive balance of £881.21. This includes speaker's fees up to & including February 2015.

5/2/15 Research

Martin R said that as far as he was concerned, the Group now had permission from Paul Frodsham to complete the Brackenber post excavation work using funding from elsewhere. Accordingly the application to CWAAS can proceed. The Project Design is complete; Richard had received the costs from Martin, so when he received the reports which form part of the package he would send the application in time for the Research & Grants Committee meeting on 3rd March. The total applied for is £3,275+VAT. (The schedule is attached to the minutes for information.)

6/2/15 Appleby Town Project

Martin R set out his proposals for the new Project for the Group, the investigation of the Town of Appleby itself. He had circulated his outline brief to the committee and was congratulated by everyone for the quality of the brief.

The general aim is to look at the whole of the history of the town, working to a number of themes and involving the whole community. The themes would be:

- 1) *In Search of Aballaba* - Roman evidence in the Appleby area
- 2) *Old Appleby, Land of the Bondsman* – The Danish manor and village
- 3) *The Medieval Borough* - Investigating the Norman settlement and burgages (C12th- C13th)
- 4) *A Town in Ruins* – Appleby's decline in the 14th & 15th Centuries
- 5) *Lady Anne's Appleby* – 17th Century restoration
- 6) *A Time of Prosperity* – Appleby in the 18th & 19th Centuries

The Project will likely last for 5-6 years, possibly longer. The methodology will include digital mapping (GIS), geophysics, test pit excavation, desk based research, building & graveyard surveys etc.

It is planned to have a launch event to present the Project to members and the wider community in late June, with some initial work coinciding with the Festival of Archaeology in July. Martin will put some ideas on paper for the initial stages of the project. Initially, Phyl & Martin will write to the Andy Connell at the Town Council, Carl Bendelow (Appleby Business Centre Manager) and the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society to introduce the Project to them.

Regarding funding, Martin suggested that we could begin without funding and get the Project off the ground, then apply for some more substantial funding from one of the lottery funds.

The committee members were very enthusiastic about the prospects as a whole & Martin J suggested some media spinoffs such as a weblog, a video diary & possibly even a book. Phyl thought that we would need to think about a sub-committee to take on the Project &/or additional committee meetings at some stage. Martin R said he hoped to co-opt members who have a particular interest in the town, such as Chris Wilson, in some capacity.

(Post meeting note: If early funding for initial publicity etc. is needed it might be available reasonably quickly through the Neighbourhood Forum.)

7/2/15 Correspondence

1. Phyl and Richard had received letters from the CBA which asked for a financial commitment for 5 years. The sum requested was £200 annually. It was considered that this request was aimed at the larger societies and that we were not in a position to commit to such a sum. It was agreed that Phyl would write to the CBA explaining that we were a small group and offering a one time donation of £50 in acknowledgement of the way the CBA represent Archaeology in the UK. If acceptable, the donation would be sent later.
2. Harry Hawkins had been in contact with Richard requesting some images from the Druidical Judgement Seat excavation and some accompanying text as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the CWAAS. Martin R had sent some images & text.
3. Richard had received various messages from the Community Archaeology mailing list but was being quite selective about what he circulated to the committee as most of it has no relevance to the Group.

8/2/15 Programme

Various suggestions were made for the summer programme:

1. May evening visit to Musgrave Tithe Barn & Church Field to complement the AGM presentation by Mike Lea & Martin R. **(Martin R)**
2. Guided evening or afternoon visit to Carlisle Cathedral (& Guildhall?). **(Martin J)**
3. Visit to Ravenglass excavation if possible, tied to a possible talk by Holly Beavitt-Pike.

If a full day trip, this could include a visit to the Senhouse Museum in Maryport. **(Phyl)**

Moving on to the winter talks programme, Richard confirmed Linda Hodgson for November 10th. A Roman theme then seemed to emerge:

4. Martin R suggesting Frank Geicco talking about excavations in Botchergate, Carlisle **(Martin R)**
5. Carol suggesting Jamie Quartermaine on the relationship between Native Britons & Roman (& Romanised) rulers **(Carol)**
6. Richard suggesting Andrew Birley from Vindolanda (last visited us in 2007) – this was put on the reserve list
7. Phyl suggesting Holly Beavitt-Pike on the LDNP directed excavations at Ravenglass. **(Phyl)**
8. Richard suggested John Zant (Oxford Archaeology North) on the dualling of the A66 in North Yorkshire but it was decided to put this on the reserve list & replace it by OAN on the New Squares Project in Penrith. **(Richard)**
9. Finally, Carol suggested a talk on Irish Sea Monasticism in the 12th Century by Fiona Edmunds. **(Carol)**

(Post meeting note: A number of other ideas were floated following the meeting, appended here for future reference):

Richard: A friend of Harry Hawkins who translates Cuneiform script & who lives at Lazonby.

Carol: Lime Burning & Lime Kilns in Westmorland; The archaeology of the A1 road expansion; History of common land in Cumbria (Angus Winchester); Vernacular architecture of Cumbria.

Also, Jamie Quartermaine now confirmed for 9 February 2016.

9/2/15 AOB

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date and time of next meeting Thursday May 14th (subsequently changed to the 21st) at The White House, Brampton

Project costs:

1. Illustration of the rim of a collared urn and accessory vessels (by WAA Illustrator, Adrian Bailey)	£350	
Total price for work on pottery:		<u>£350</u>
2. Submission of samples from the cremation pits for Radiocarbon dating reporting (by WAA Environmental Officer, Don O'Meara)	£175	
3. 5 samples of cremated bone to SUERC at £290 per sample	£1450	
Total price for C14 dating:		<u>£1625</u>
4. Analysis of the cremated human bone and report (Now completed by Sam Walsh for no charge)	£0	
5. Charcoal identification and reporting (WAA Environmental Officer, Don O'Meara in consultation with Jackie Huntley)	£350	
Total price for work on charcoal:		<u>£350</u>
6. Analysis and reporting on lithics (by WAA Lithics specialist, David Jackson)	£350	
Total price for lithics:		<u>£350</u>
7. Production of an article for inclusion in CWAAS Transactions (by Appleby Archaeology Group)	£0	
Illustration of the article and finds (by WAA Illustrator, Adrian Bailey).	£350	
Total price for article:		<u>£350</u>
Total cost for analysis and publication of the work:		<u>£3,025 +VAT</u>